

11 June 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting With Mr. William Darden, Professional Staff
Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, Re Agency
Retirement Bill

STATINTL

1. [] and the undersigned met with Mr. Darden to review the status of the retirement bill and to get such advice as possible regarding Committee consideration of the bill.
2. Mr. Darden advised that although he had furnished the Chairman with a memorandum of information concerning the bill, he did not have any real feeling concerning the Chairman's remark, when the question of the retirement bill came up during Committee briefing, that he had some problems with the retirement bill. Bill did suggest, however, that in keeping with his own memorandum to Mr. Russell, additional cost information would be most helpful. He indicated that no costs have been provided in the material furnished him with regard to involuntary retirement of GS-14's and above and requested that we "provide a cost estimate on a projection basis." As he thumbed through his material, he also noted that among the typical cases that we furnished there is a GS-14 born in 1924 and a GS-15 born in 1925. He feels that these illustrations are contrary to the proposition that persons who had been covered under the involuntary separation would be approaching the age of 50 with 20 years' service, and result in only nominal additional cost of the program.
3. Mr. Darden asked that the cost of the Agency retirement program be computed using the same criteria as that employed by Civil Service and others to show that the Civil Service Retirement Fund is some \$35 billion in the red. He noted that the cost estimates furnished were conservative at best, but that Committee members, and possibly Mr. Russell himself, would be interested in a more complete detailing of the cost of our program.

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4. There was no doubt from Mr. Darden's remarks that in his judgment a personal meeting between Mr. McCone and Senator Russell wherein Mr. McCone might outline the Agency need for this program is a sine quo non to favorable consideration of this bill. It was our impression that Mr. Darden feels that Mr. Russell basically has little consideration for this type of legislation and will need to be personally convinced. In this regard, Mr. Darden suggested that the briefing by Mr. McCone include three or four illustrative type cases as well as an outline of the Agency need for the legislation. He suggested that a couple of these be Commo cases so that the impression given would be related to the average Agency case for which we intend application of the program rather than solely the romantic operator type.

5. The question of the Jones amendment, which requires approval by the Chairman and ranking minority members of House and Senate Armed Services Committee, and BOB objection thereto, was also discussed. Mr. Darden frankly had no opinion on whether this matter should be posed for possible deletion by the Committee, or whether it would be better to have the leadership request that it be knocked out on the floor. In the discussion, mention was made of the idea of a letter from the Director to the Chairman pointing out the BOB position on this section (sec. 201, H. R. 8427) and requesting Committee action.

6. The matter of the several amendments to the Civil Service Retirement Act was also discussed. Some of these have since been incorporated in the Foreign Service Act. Others are pending in other legislation proposed by the Department of State. It was Mr. Darden's personal recommendation that we not attempt "to sweeten the bill in the Senate Committee" but rather to get our basic bill approved and sweeten it next year.

7. It was also the sense of the discussion that it might be a good idea to meet with Senator Stennis in advance of a possible hearing and to bring him up to date on the bill and the Agency need for this authority in the quiet of his office.

8. In conclusion, on the question of timing Mr. Darden suggested that it might be well to give the Senator a week or so after completion of Senate consideration of the Civil Rights Bill in order to catch his breath somewhat on the many items of rather pressing importance that have been awaiting completion of the Civil Rights hearings.

cc: Personnel

STATINTL

Assistant Legislative Counsel

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